

Press Release

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Low-cost health care coverage is now available

OLYMPIA, October 14, 1998: While the costs for health insurance are increasing in Washington State and across the nation, there is a welcome alternative for one in nine Washington residents without health care coverage—the Washington Basic Health Plan. For those who meet income guidelines, space is now available in Basic Health's reduced-premium program, with coverage still starting at \$10 per month for each enrolled adult.

Due to state funding limits, many Washington residents had to place their names on a reservation list before they could join Basic Health's reduced-premium program. However, there is no longer a reservation list for the reduced-premium program, and space is now available for new members.

What does Basic Health provide?

Basic Health provides comprehensive coverage for health care benefits such as:

- Doctor and hospital care, including preventive care
- Emergency services
- Prescription drugs

through contracts with private health plans. Monthly premiums are based on income, family size and ages of family members, and the health plan chosen. There are no deductibles, coinsurance, or claim forms to fill out. Copayments are required for most services received.

In addition, most families who qualify for the reduced-premium program can receive health care coverage for their children at no additional cost through Basic Health Plus. The Basic Health Plus program offers children a wider range of benefits, including dental and vision care, with no premiums or copayments.

Where can I get more information?

Those interested in receiving more information about Basic Health or Basic Health Plus can call our 24-hour, toll-free line at 1-800-826-2444 and press option 1 to request an application. The program is also encouraging people who might know a friend or relative who would benefit from Basic Health to call and request this information. Additional information about Basic Health's benefits, costs, and the health plans available for 1999 can also be found on the Health Care Authority's Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/hca>.

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